IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The universal auction specification system as in claim [[9]] 22, wherein the market specification console includes a graphical user interface (GUI) to configure the at least one market protocol.

12. (Currently amended) The universal auction specification system of claim 11, wherein the at least one market protocol is predefined in parameterized form on the graphical user interface.

13. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 11, wherein the user defines arbitrary market protocols via the graphical user interface.

14-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A universal auction specification system comprising:

a market specification console configured to receive at least one market protocol from a user to dictate the behavior of a universal auction system, the at least one market protocol including a customizable set of at least one market phase, wherein the market phase includes one or more user selectable trading primitives to dictate the behavior of the universal auction system with respect to a plurality of goods auctioned by a plurality of auction participants; and

a programmable auction server in communication with coupled to the market specification console via a network connection, the programmable auction server to receive the at least one market protocol defined by the market specification console, the programmable auction server to implement the protocol at least one of the trading primitives to deploy the universal auction system and to manage trading of the plurality of at least one good[[s]] auctioned by the plurality of at least one auction participant[[s]] in the universal auction system.

23. (Cancelled)

24.   (New) The universal auction specification system of claim 22 wherein the market phase includes an interval in which at least one transaction occurs.

25.   (New) The universal auction specification system of claim 22 wherein the transaction is selected from the group including submitting a bid, admitting a bid, withdrawing a bid, and replacing a bid.

26.   (New) The universal auction specification system of claim 22 wherein the phase is terminated by a condition.

27.   (New) The universal auction specification system of claim 26 wherein the condition is a time period.

28.   (New) A method of managing the trading of goods auctioned by auction participants comprising:

   receiving at least one market protocol from a user to dictate the behavior of a universal auction system, wherein the at least one market protocol includes a customizable set of at least one market phase, wherein the market phase includes one or more user selectable trading primitives; and

   implementing the protocol to deploy the universal auction system.

29.   (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the market specification console includes a graphical user interface (GUI) to configure the at least one market protocol.

30.   (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the at least one market protocol is predefined in parameterized form on the graphical user interface.

31.   (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the user defines arbitrary market protocols via the graphical user interface.

32.   (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the market phase includes an interval in which at least one transaction occurs.

33.   (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the transaction is selected from the group including submitting a bid, admitting a bid, withdrawing a bid, and replacing a bid.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase is terminated by a condition.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the condition is a time period.

36. (New) A computer program product for managing the trading goods auctioned by auction participants, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving at least one market protocol from a user to dictate the behavior of a universal auction system, wherein the at least one market protocol includes a customizable set of at least one market phase, wherein the market phase includes one or more user selectable trading primitives; and

implementing the protocol to deploy the universal auction system.

37. (New) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the market specification console includes a graphical user interface (GUI) to configure the at least one market protocol.

38. (New) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein the at least one market protocol is predefined in parameterized form on the graphical user interface.

39. (New) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein the user defines arbitrary market protocols via the graphical user interface.

40. (New) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the market phase includes an interval in which at least one transaction occurs.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the transaction is selected from the group including submitting a bid, admitting a bid, withdrawing a bid, and replacing a bid.

42. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the phase is terminated by a condition.

43. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the condition is a time period.